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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

# BIG GAME INVENTORY FOR 1961

Compiled in Bird and Mammal Laboratories
Branch of Wildlife Research
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Summarized herein are data on the population and kill of the principal big-game species in the 50 States during the calendar year 1961. This information was assembled, as in previous years, with the cooperation of the State game departments and of the appropriate agencies of the Federal National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. The practice continues of indicating trends rather than precise population figures.

A statement from Wisconsin, which accounts for some of the differences from year to year in this inventory, probably reflects the situation in other States as well: "As we continually are refining and improving our data regarding the deer herd.....apparent discrepancies are revealed in the data from past years. This is unfortunate but unavoidable; we will continue to furnish the best information available."

The kill of nearly all species was up in 1961 from the year before. The take of pronghorns increased by 21 percent, of wild turkeys by 9 percent, and of moose (nearly all in Alaska) by a bouncing 99 percent. White-tailed and black-tailed deer were down a trifle, and mule deer up, but considering these three forms together -- a total of 1,840,994 taken -- the net kill was up less than 3 percent from the total take in 1960.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Leaflet 446 • September 1962

## PART 1.--Species Reported by Western and Eastern States, 1961

| STATE | MOOSE | | ELK | | WHITE-TAILED DEER | | BLACK BEAR | | WILD TURKEY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. |
| Alaska * | 12,000 ABC | ..... M | 125 BC | ..... M | ..... | ..... | 1,100 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Arizona | ..... | ..... | 650 AF | 5,200 M | 4,780 F | 27,500 S | 213 F | 700 M | 1,303 AF | 27,000 L |
| California | ..... | ..... | 40 AD | 2,600 S | ..... | ..... | 841 D | ..... S | NOS | 2,000 M |
| Colorado | ..... | ..... | 11,743 AD | ..... S | ..... | ..... | 586 AD | ..... S | 545 D | ..... S |
| Hawaii * | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | NOS | 450 M |
| Idaho | 46 D | ..... M | 15,700 F | ..... S | 11,700 F | ..... S | 2,100 F | ..... S | NOS | 30 M |
| Kansas | ..... | ..... | NOS | ..... | NOS | 9,226 M | ..... | ..... | NOS | 381 M |
| Montana | 530 F | ..... | 15,500 F | ..... | 27,400 F | ..... | 1,790 F | ..... | 400 F | ..... |
| Nebraska | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,622 A | ..... MG | ..... | ..... | NOS | 1,500 M |
| Nevada | ..... | ..... | 7 D | 260 S | ..... | ..... | NOS | 25 S | NOS | 75 M |
| New Mexico | ..... | ..... | 951 A | 12,500 M | 1,000 AF | 18,000 S | 300 ADF | 2,000 S | 3,500 ADF | 25,000 L |
| North Dakota | ..... | ..... | NOS | 15 S | 25,250 | 67,000 S | ..... | ..... | 200 F | 1,000 S |
| Oklahoma | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3,664 A | 25,000 M | ..... | ..... | 600 DF | 20,000 M |
| Oregon | ..... | ..... | 12,091 DF | ..... S | 100 CF | ..... M | 1,500 C | ..... S | NOS | 250 M |
| South Dakota | NOS | ..... | NOS | 200 M | 10,200 D | 110,000 M | ..... | ..... | 510 D | 4,000 M |
| Texas | ..... | ..... | 8 E | 300 S | 204,000 BCEF | 2,000,000 M | NOS | 20 S | 5,500 BCE | ..... M |
| Utah | 8 CD | 100 S | 1,118 CD | 1,500 S | ..... | ..... | ..... | 200 S | NOS | 1,500 M |
| Washington | NOS | ..... | 8,550 F | 43,000 M | 10,100 F | 60,000 L | 5,500 F | 25,000 L | NOS | 90 M |
| Wyoming | 776 BF | ..... S | 11,422 BF | ..... S | ..... I | ..... M | 496 F | ..... M | 1,159 BF | ..... M |
| Alabama | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 15,511 BC | 100,000 M | NOS | 216 L | 7,568 BC | 65,000 M |
| Arkansas | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 200,000 M | ..... | 100 M | ..... | 10,000 M |
| Connecticut | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 488 D | 7,000 L | ..... | ..... | NOS | 35 M |
| Delaware | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 498 A | 3,000 S | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Florida | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13,000 F | 100,000 S | 67 BCF | 800 L | 21,000 F | 75,000 M |
| Georgia | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 15,000 ABC | 90,000 M | 25 BC | 500 S | 3,500 ABC | 30,000 S |
| Illinois | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4,379 A | ..... M | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Indiana | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,293 D | 30,000 M | ..... | ..... | NOS | 300 M |
| Iowa | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5,364 ACD | 15,938 M | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Kentucky | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3,000 AD | 57,000 M | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,650 M |
| Louisiana | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13,000 D | ..... M | ..... | ..... S | 131 ACD | ..... M |
| Maine | NOS | 3,000 S | ..... | ..... | 32,747 AF | 180,000 S | 2,050 F | ..... S | ..... | ..... |
| Maryland | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6,507 A | 36,220 M | ..... | ..... | 800 C | 1,000 L |
| Massachusetts | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3,084 AD | 15,000+S | 1+ | ..... | ..... | 50 M |
| Michigan | NOS | 40 S | NOS | 2,000 M | 59,800 F | 625,000 | 700 F | 8,000 M | NOS | 2,000 M |
| Minnesota | NOS | 6,000 M | NOS | 15+L | 106,500 D | 400,000 S | 600 CD | ..... S | ..... | ..... |
| Mississippi | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11,015 AB | 131,000 M | NOS | 30 S | 1,947 AB | 35,000 M |
| Missouri | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 16,100 D | 300,000 M | NOS | 25 S | 154 AD | 5,500 S |
| New Hampshire | NOS 3 C | 60+S | NOS | 6+L | 8,328 DH | 35,000+S | 166 D | 800+S | ..... | ..... |
| New Jersey | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6,336 D | 45,000+S | ..... | 18 S | ..... | 48 S |
| New York | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 58,454 A | 375,000 S | 311 A | 4,000 S | 250 AB | 4,300 M |
| North Carolina | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 22,000 E | 220,000 M | 1,000 E | 10,000 S | 2,000 E | 10,000 L |
| Ohio | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | NOS | ..... S | ..... | ..... | NOS | ..... M |
| Pennsylvania | ..... | ..... | NOS | 75 S | 56,032 D | 300,000 S | 237 D | 1,000 S | 17,312 C | 45,000 S |
| Rhode Island | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9 D | 1,500 S | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| South Carolina | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13,000 AC | 75,000 S | 2 AC | 20 S | 2,000 AC | 25,000 M |
| Tennessee | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,827 AD | 35,000 M | 18 AD | 250 S | 134 AD | 11,000 M |
| Vermont | ..... | 20 S | ..... | ..... | 15,823 D | 175,000 S | 219 D | 3,000 S | ..... | ..... |
| Virginia | ..... | ..... | NOS | 100 S | 32,875 A | 203,000 L | 206 A | 824 S | 3,811 | 15,250 L |
| West Virginia | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5,043 AD | 80,000 S | 65 AD | 500 L | 1,074 A | 10,000 S |
| Wisconsin | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 39,935 A | 500,000+S | 337 A | 5,000+M | NOS | 300+S |
| Total | 13,363 | X | 77,905 | X | 867,764 | X | 20,430 | X | 75,398 | X |

Determination of kill:

Methods used by game wardens and technicians -

A - checking stations

B - interviews

C - general field observations

State central office methods -

D - license stubs or card returns

E - ranchers' coupons

F - questionnaire to license holders

NOS - no open season

Population trend from 1960 to 1961:

L - less

M - more

S - same

\+ Minimum estimate

X No total population estimate listed, because of the failure of some States to report any figure.

## PART 2.--Species Reported by Western States Only, 1961

| STATE | GRIZZLY BEAR | | MULE DEER | | BLACK-TAILED DEER | | PRONGHORN ANTELOPE | | MOUNTAIN CARIBOU | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kill | Pop. est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. |
| Alaska * ..... | 455 D | .. S | ..... | ..... | 15,000 ABC | ..... M | ..... | ..... | .. | .. |
| Arizona..... | ... | .. | 31,117 AF | 190,000 S | ..... | ..... | 755 F | 8,500 S | .. | .. |
| California.... | ... | .. | 26,535 D | 520,000 S | 47,145 D | 580,000 S | NOS | 2,269+M | .. | .. |
| Colorado..... | ... | .. | 147,341 AD | ..... M | ..... | ..... | 1,905 D | ..... M | .. | .. |
| Hawaii * ..... | ... | .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | NOS | 44 M | .. | .. |
| Idaho..... | NOS | .. S | 60,700 F | ..... S | ..... | ..... | 573 D | ..... S | .. | .. S |
| Kansas..... | ... | .. | NOS | 1,460 M | ..... | ..... | NOS | 100 S | .. | .. |
| Minnesota..... | ... | .. | ..... BC | ..... S | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | .. | .. |
| Montana..... | 60 F | .. | 101,700 F | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19,300 F | ..... | .. | .. |
| Nebraska..... | ... | .. | 4,148 A | 75,000+MG | ..... | ..... | 603 A | 4,000 M | .. | .. |
| Nevada..... | ... | .. | 26,712 D | 245,399 L | ..... | ..... | 211 D | 3,175 S | .. | .. |
| New Mexico.... | ... | .. | 40,000 AF | 300,000 L | ..... | ..... | 3,884 AFD | 25,000 M | .. | .. |
| North Dakota.. | ... | .. | 6,800 | 20,000 S | ..... | ..... | 2,950 D | 8,000 M | .. | .. |
| Oklahoma..... | ... | .. | 38 A | 300 S | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | .. | .. |
| Oregon..... | ... | .. | 112,831 F | ..... S | 51,108 F | ..... S | 418 D | ..... L | .. | .. |
| South Dakota.. | ... | .. | 7,200 D | 40,000 M | ..... | ..... | 8,000 D | 19,000 M | .. | .. |
| Texas..... | ... | .. | 6,000 BCE | 80,000 M | ..... | ..... | 2,081 E | 12,000 M | .. | .. |
| Utah..... | ... | .. | 132,278 CDF | 375,000 S | ..... | ..... | 92 CD | 1,500 S | .. | .. |
| Washington.... | ... | 10 S | 26,900 F | 175,000 M | 45,000 F | 250,000 S | NOS | 125 S | NOS | 15 S |
| Wyoming..... | ... | .. | 84,677 FI | ..... M | ..... | ..... | 34,873 F | ..... M | .. | .. |
| Total..... | 515 | X | 814,977 | X | 158,253 | X | 75,645 | X | .. | X |

| STATE | PECCARY (JAVELINA) | | BIGHORN SHEEP | | MOUNTAIN GOAT | | AMERICAN BISON | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. |
| Alaska * ..... | ..... | ..... | ... | ..... | 250 ABC | ..... S | 50 A | ... M |
| Arizona..... | 4,343 | 12,000 S | 26 A | 3,400 S | ... | ..... | 155 A | ... L |
| California.... | ..... | ..... | NOS | 2,000+S | ... | ..... | .. | ... |
| Colorado..... | ..... | ..... | 45 D | ..... M | ... | ..... | .. | ... |
| Hawaii * ..... | ..... | ..... | ... | ..... | ... | ..... | .. | ... |
| Idaho..... | ..... | ..... | 57 D | ..... S | 138 D | ..... S | NOS | ... |
| Montana..... | ..... | ..... | 70 F | ..... | 330 F | ..... | .. | ... |
| Nevada..... | ..... | ..... | 32 D | 2,515 S | ... | ..... | .. | ... |
| New Mexico.... | NOS | 2,000 S | 2 A | 550 S | ... | ..... | NOS | ... |
| Oregon..... | ..... | ..... | NOS | ..... M | NOS | ..... M | .. | ... |
| South Dakota.. | ..... | ..... | ... | 18 M | NOS | 200 S | NOS | 200 S |
| Texas..... | 1,300 BC | 125,000 S | NOS | 12 L | ... | ..... | 4 A | 95 L |
| Utah..... | ..... | ..... | NOS | 150 S | ... | ..... | 12 A | 50 S |
| Washington.... | ..... | ..... | NOS | ..... M | 272 F | 6,000 M | .. | ... |
| Wyoming..... | ..... | ..... | 88 BF | ..... S | ... | ..... | .. | ... |
| Total..... | 5,643 | X | 320 | X | 990 | X | 221 | X |

*Additional species:

| | Kill | Pop.est. |
|---|---|---|
| Alaska | | |
| Polar bear.... | 156 BCD | ..... S |
| Dall sheep.... | 1,000 ABC | ..... S |
| Barren ground caribou..... | 30,000 ABC | ..... M |
| Hawaii | ** | |
| Axis deer..... | 700 ABCD | 4,000-M |
| Hawaiian wild boar..... | 10,000 ABCD | 90,000 L |
| Feral goat.... | 5,000 ABCD | 20,000 L |
| Feral sheep (Mauna Kea).. | 4,000 ABCD | 5,000 L |
| Feral cattle.. | 25 BC | 130 L |
| Mouflon sheep. | NOS | 55 M |

**Estimates

G. Nebraska: Population of mule deer includes white-tailed deer.

H. New Hampshire: Kill of white-tailed deer includes 530 by accident, but does not include an estimate of 670 not reported.

I. Wyoming: Kill of white-tailed deer included with that of mule deer.

## PART 3.--Foreign Species, 1961

| STATE | EUROPEAN WILD BOAR | | BARBARY SHEEP | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kill | Pop.est. | Kill | Pop.est. |
| California..... | 100 C | ... S | .. | ..... |
| New Hampshire.. | 3 BC | 12 S | .. | ..... |
| New Mexico..... | ... | ... | 94 A | 3,000 M |
| " " State & private parks. | ... | ... | .. | 100 |
| North Carolina. | 30 E | 300 S | .. | ... |
| Tennessee..... | 49 AD | 600 S | .. | ... |
| Texas..... | ... | ... | .. | 200 M |
| Total..... | 182 | X | 94 | X |

## PART 4.--Estimates of Numbers in Areas Administered by the National Park Service, 1961

| AREA | MOOSE | ELK | WHITE-TAILED DEER | MULE DEER | BLACK BEAR | GRIZZLY BEAR | PRONGHORN ANTELOPE | BIGHORN SHEEP | MOUNTAIN GOAT | AMERICAN BISON | PECCARY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Parks | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acadia | .. | .. | .. CS | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Big Bend | .. | .. | 50 S | 300 M | .. RS | .. | 30 M | .. | .. | .. | 350 S |
| Bryce Canyon | .. | .. I | .. | .. A | .. I | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Carlsbad Caverns | .. | 15 M | .. | 350 S | .. | .. | 15 S | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Crater Lake | .. | 5 S | 400 S | 20 L | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Everglades | .. | .. | CM | .. | R | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Glacier | 115 S | 2,375 M | 380 S | 650 S | 240 L | 115 S | .. | 150 S | 465 L | .. | .. |
| Grand Canyon | .. | .. | .. | 5,650 L | 3 R | .. | .. | 150 S | .. | .. | .. |
| Grand Teton | 275 S | 800 M | .. | 175 S | 200 M | .. R | .. | 50 M | .. | 20 S | .. |
| Great Smoky Mts | .. | .. | 150 | .. | 300 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Isle Royale | 600 S | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Lassen Volcanic | .. | .. | 500 S | 200 S | 30 S | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mammoth Cave | .. | .. | 3,000 M | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mesa Verde | .. | .. | .. | 450 L | .. | .. | .. | 80 M | .. | .. | .. |
| Mt. McKinley | 300 M | .. | .. | .. | 25 S | 200 S | .. | 3,500 M | .. I | .. | .. |
| Mt. Rainier | .. | 200 M | .. | 400 S | 75 S | .. | .. | .. | 350 S | .. | .. |
| Olympic | .. | .. A | .. | ..CM | .. C | .. | .. | .. | .. C | .. | .. |
| Platt | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 S | .. |
| Rocky Mountain | .. | 1,200 M | .. | 600 M | 30 M | .. | .. | 225 S | .. | .. | .. |
| Sequoia-Kings | .. | .. | .. | ..CL | .. C | .. | .. | ..RM | .. | .. | .. |
| Shenandoah | .. | .. | 800 S | .. | 120 M | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Wind Cave | .. | 280 M | .. | 125 S | .. | .. | 300 M | .. | .. | 397 U | .. |
| Yellowstone | 400 S | 13,000 M | .. | ..CM | 500 S | 200 S | 300 S | 200 S | .. | 850 M | .. |
| Yosemite | .. | .. | .. | .. A | .. C | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Zion | .. | .. | .. | 900 S | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Estimate of population trend: L, less; M, more; S, same. Estimate of relative abundance: A, abundant; C, common; R, rare; I, infrequent (transient through area)

National Monuments, National Recreation Areas and Parkways

Moose: Glacier Bay 20, Katmai, common. Elk: Colorado 20, Great Sand Dunes 20, Mt. Rushmore 6, Blue Ridge 40. Bandelier, Dinosaur, Timpanogos Cave, and Walnut Canyon, infrequent. Black bear: Bandelier 10, Chiricahua 2, Glacier Bay 400, Coulee Dam 60, Blue Ridge 60. Colorado, Devils Postpile, and Dinosaur, infrequent. Coronado and Oregon Caves, rare. Grizzly bear: Glacier Bay 150, Katmai, common. Pronghorn antelope: Badlands 100, Organ Pipe 29, T. Roosevelt 240. Petrified Forest, common. Dinosaur, Lava Beds, and Walnut Canyon, infrequent. Bighorn sheep: Death Valley 800, Great Sand Dunes 23, Joshua Tree 150, Organ Pipe 50, T. Roosevelt 21. Dinosaur and Lake Mead, common. Glen Canyon, rare. Mountain goat: Glacier Bay 1,200, Mt. Rushmore 10. American bison: Colorado 16, T. Roosevelt 115. Peccary: Chiricahua 10, Coronado 12, Organ Pipe 125, Saguaro 200, Tonto 12. Walnut Canyon, infrequent. Deer: Population of both white-tailed and mule (including black-tailed) deer remain about the same, or are up in a few cases, in the 32 areas reporting.

## PART 5.--Estimates of Numbers on National Wildlife Refuges and on State Parks and Refuges, 1961

| AREA | MOOSE | ELK | WHITE-TAILED DEER | MULE DEER | BLACK BEAR | GRIZZLY BEAR | PRONGHORN ANTELOPE | BIGHORN SHEEP | MOUNTAIN GOAT | AMERICAN BISON | PECCARY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Wildlife Refuges 1/. | 7,406 | 11,219 | 59,421 | 30,066 | 1,188 | .. | 12,947 | 2,783 | 111 | 1,892 | 500 |
| State Parks and Refuges | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arizona | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 350 | .. |
| California | .. | 40 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Idaho | .. | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30 | .. |
| Illinois | .. | .. | 50 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Kansas | .. | 45 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 365 | .. |
| Minnesota | 2/ | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| New Hampshire | .. | .. | 18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| New Mexico 2/ | .. | 400 | 10 | 1,000 | 25 | .. | 10 | .. | .. | 50 | 10 |
| North Dakota | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 41 | .. | 30 | .. |
| Oklahoma | .. | .. | 10,000 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Washington | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 51 | .. | .. | .. |
| West Virginia | .. | .. | 5,000 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total - State Pks. and Refuges | .. | 505 | 15,083 | 1,005 | 35 | .. | 10 | 92 | .. | 825 | 10 |

1/ National Wildlife Refuges: Kodiak, Alaska, 240 Sitka black-tailed deer (1960 population count).

2/ State Parks and Refuges: Minnesota - calculated estimate of 6,000 moose on Red Lake Refuge and Superior National Forest included in Part 1.
New Mexico - also includes white-tailed and mule deer, antelope, bison, and peccary on private parks.
Wild turkey: Oklahoma 1,000; West Virginia 150+.

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